

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method, comprising:

determining if a south bridge of a processor-based system is configured to operate in a slave  
5 mode or a master mode;  
polling one or more sensors in the processor-based system for status values, in response to  
determining that the south bridge is configured to operate in the master mode; and  
receiving requests from a network interface card to access sensors internal to the south bridge  
based on determining that the south bridge is configured to operate in the slave mode.

- 10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising responding to the requests from the  
network interface card when in the slave mode.

- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein polling comprises polling based on addresses stored  
in a sensor address table.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising constructing network-based packets that  
include remote management and control protocol acknowledgements.

- 20 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving network-based packets that  
include remote management and control protocol commands.

6. The method of claim 1, whether the sensors are Alert Standard Format (ASF) sensors  
and the status values are ASF status values, further comprising responding to requests from

an external management server for the Alert Standard Format sensor status values when operating in the master mode.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising generating a platform event trap in response to detecting an anomaly in the Alert Standard Format sensor status values.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising storing the Alert Standard Format sensor status values in a table.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising receiving push messages mastered by at least one of the Alert Standard Format sensors when operating in the master mode.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving messages over a SMBus from the network interface card when operating in the slave mode.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising processing Address Resolution Protocol requests.

12. An apparatus, comprising:

a controller adapted to determine if a south bridge of a processor-based system is configured to operate in a slave mode or a master mode, the processor-based system having at least one sensor internal to the south bridge and at least one sensor external to the south bridge; and

a polling engine communicatively coupled to the controller, the polling engine adapted to poll at least the external sensor for Alert Standard Format sensor status values if the south

bridge is operating in the master mode and to poll the internal sensor for Alert Standard Format sensor status values if the south bridge is operating in the slave mode.

5 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the polling engine stores the Alert Standard Format sensor status values in a status table.

10 14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the polling engine accesses an address table to determine which sensors to poll.

15 15. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the polling engine comprises a SMBus interface to access the external sensor.

20 16. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a network interface card, wherein the controller is further adapted to respond to the requests from the network interface card when operating in the slave mode.

17. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the controller is adapted to respond to requests from an external management server for the Alert Standard Format sensor status values when operating in the master mode.

18. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the controller is adapted to generate a platform event trap in response to detecting an anomaly in the Alert Standard Format sensor status values.

19. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the controller is adapted to receive push messages mastered by the external sensor when operating in the master mode and to receive messages over a SMBus from the network interface card when operating in the slave mode..

5 20. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the controller is adapted to process Address Resolution Protocol requests.

21. An article comprising one or more machine-readable storage media containing instructions that when executed enable a processor to:

10 determine if a south bridge of a processor-based system is configured to operate in a slave mode or a master mode;

poll Alert Standard Format sensors in the processor-based system for Alert Standard Format sensor status values, in response to determining that the south bridge is configured to operate in the master mode; and

15 receive requests from a network interface card to access sensors internal to the south bridge based on determining that the south bridge is configured to operate in the slave mode.

22. The article of claim 21, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to respond to requests from an external management server for the Alert Standard Format  
20 sensor status values based on determining that the south bridge is configured to operate in the master mode.

23. . The article of claim 21, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to respond to the requests from the network interface card when in the slave mode.

24. The article of claim 21, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to poll based on addresses stored in a sensor address table.

25. The article of claim 21, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to generate a platform event trap in response to detecting an anomaly in the Alert Standard Format sensor status values.

26. The article of claim 21, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to receive network-based packets that include remote management and control protocol commands.

27. The article of claim 21, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to receive push messages mastered by at least one of the Alert Standard Format sensors, in response to determining that the south bridge is configured to operate in the master mode and to receive messages over an SMBus from the network interface card, in response to determining that the south bridge is configured to operate in the slave mode.

28. The article of claim 21, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to process Address Resolution Protocol requests.

29. The article of claim 21, wherein the instructions when executed enable the processor to construct network-based packets including remote management and control protocol acknowledgements.